

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

12 MARCH 1985

Iran-Iraq War

Three Iraqi planes fired two rockets at residential areas of northern Tehran killing five people early on 12 March, IRNA reported. Iraqi planes also raided Masjed-Soleyman, Khorramabad, Borujerd, Dezful, and Arak, though the agency noted that no further details were available on these attacks. Meanwhile, Iran fired surface-to-surface missiles at "economic installations" in Kirkuk as a warning that "any point" in Iraq could come under Iran's missile attacks, according to the agency. In a separate development, the Iranian Khatem ol-Anbiya' headquarters announced that "heavy casualties" were inflicted on Iraqi forces during a "successful offensive" on the night of 11-12 March, the agency revealed. An Iraqi military spokesman, in a statement broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio, asserted that part of the Iranian forces that attempted an offensive through the Hoveyseh marshes was "destroyed or captured."

These developments followed the 11 March Iraqi air and missile attacks against Borujerd, Bakhtaran, and Tabriz in which over 100 people were killed, according to an Iranian communique cited by IRNA. Tehran radio also noted that Iran continued shelling Basra on 11 March. An Iraqi military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio confirmed the air attack on Tabriz and announced that an Iranian plane that infiltrated the Al-Fadiliyah area near Baghdad was intercepted by ground forces and forced to flee. The communique also announced that Iraqi planes hit another "large maritime target" in the Gulf on 11 March.

Responding to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's call for attacks on civilian targets to cease, Iran's 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani reaffirmed that Iran will "reciprocate" if Iraq stops its attacks on Iranian cities, since attacking Iraqi cities is "contrary to the will" of Iran, IRNA reported.

Lebanon

IDF Operation — The IDF killed 34 "terrorists" and wounded 7 others during its 11 March operation in Al-Zrariyah, the IDF spokesman announced in a statement reported by Jerusalem

radio. The Israelis arrested dozens of people, including 20 Lebanese army soldiers who were subsequently released, the radio noted. While Jerusalem radio claimed that no villagers were injured in the IDF operation, Beirut radio cited reports of civilian casualties and accused the Israelis of preventing a Red Cross convoy from entering the village to aid the inhabitants. Beirut radio spoke of "fierce hand to hand combat" in the village and also reported a claim by Lebanese military sources that an Israeli tank was damaged and a helicopter was downed. Monitored Israeli media did not mention any such losses and likewise did not confirm Beirut radio's claim that seven IDF soldiers were killed or injured in a handgrenade attack in al-Nabatiyah.

Commenting on the Al-Zrariyah operation in a Jerusalem television interview, IDF Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Moshe Levi stressed that it was not a reaction to the suicide attack near Metulla on 10 March, but was in response to evidence that a force was being prepared in Al-Zrariyah to attack the IDF.

Beirut Security, Politics — Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Supreme Islamic Shi'ite Council, narrowly escaped assassination at the hands of gunmen in Beirut late on 11 March, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. In the Christian eastern sector, the Phalangist Party's Political Bureau unanimously decided to expel Lebanese Forces Mobilization Branch Chief Samir Ja'ja' from the Phalangist Party, according to the radio. In related reports, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio said that Ja'ja' has criticized and threatened the current Phalangist leadership, and has received a declaration of support from Phalangist officials in Kasrawan headed by Joseph Tutunji, the brother of the late Bashir al-Jumayyil's widow.

Western Sahara

A 10 March Saharan Information Ministry statement announced that 21 Moroccan soldiers were killed and 34 were wounded as a result of heavy weapons shelling by the Saharan People's Liberation Army against Moroccan Army positions in the southern Western Sahara on 3 March, APS reported.

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Condolences Sent to Moscow on Chernenko Death

Leadership Session Held

*LD111706 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT
11 Mar 85*

[Text] An extraordinary joint session of the DRA Revolutionary Council, PDPA Central Committee Secretariat and the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium was held this afternoon. Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, with deep sorrow informed the session of the death of Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Babrak Karmal stated: The PDPA Central Committee, the Revolutionary Council and the Council of Ministers of the DRA and all workers of the DRA consider the death of K. Chernenko, the outstanding personality of the CPSU and the Soviet Government, the relentless fighter for the aspirations of peace and socialism and the friend of the people of Afghanistan, to be a great loss for the international communist and workers movement and express profound sorrow.

Thus 12 and 13 March are declared days of national mourning in the country and the DRA's state flag is to be flown at half-mast throughout the country and at DRA political representations abroad.

PDPA, State Send Message

*LD111744 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT
11 Mar 85*

[Text] A condolence message of the PDPA Central Committee, the DRA Revolutionary Council and the Council of Ministers:

To the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, the USSR Council of Ministers

Dear comrades:

On behalf of the PDPA Central Committee, the Revolutionary Council and the DRA Government, all people of Afghanistan express with profound sorrow condolences to the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, the USSR Council of Ministers and the fraternal Soviet people on the death of Konstantin U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Comrade K. Chernenko was the outstanding personality of the Communist Party and Soviet state, the firm struggler for the aspirations of peace and communism and the prosperity of all peoples. He played a serious role in the all-around development of the Soviet Union and the consolidation of the socialist system.

The relentless struggle toward international peace and security, eliminating the danger of nuclear war and establishing fruitful understanding and cooperation between peoples are associated with his name. The whole glittering life of K. Chernenko is an

example of the sincere service to the interests of the Soviet people and all progressive humanity.

K.U. Chernenko personally paid great attention to the consolidation and all-around growth of the fraternal relations between the parties and peoples of our countries for which he won the sincere respect of the workers of Afghanistan.

In these sad days, we announce before the shining memory of K.U. Chernenko that in the future too, we will safeguard friendship and fraternity with the Soviet Union, which was willed to us by the great Lenin.

We will forge ahead on the path determined by the April Revolution, and will carry on the indefatigable struggle against conspiracies and intrigues by imperialism and for our common aspirations toward a lasting and consolidated peace in our world.

We express our profound belief that the people of the Soviet Union, under the leadership of the great party of Lenin, will succeed in achieving outstanding new successes in the way of progressive socialism, in the struggle for peace in the interest of all mankind.

The unforgettable name of K.U. Chernenko will remain forever in our hearts.

Signed The PDPA Central Committee, the DRA Revolutionary Council, the DRA Council of Ministers.

Karmal Sends Greetings on Air Defense Exercise

*LD101938 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT
10 Mar 85*

[Text] A joint air defense rocket-artillery exercise was carried out this morning in one unit of the air defense guided missiles.

Najibullah, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and head of state security services; Brigadier General Nazar Muhammad, member of the PDPA Central Committee and DRA minister of defense, and Brigadier General Sayyed Muhammad Gulabzoy, member of the party Central Committee and minister of internal affairs, observed the exercise.

BIA reports that prior to the beginning of the exercise Brigadier General Abdul Sabur, who was in charge of it, spoke on repelling air and ground targets, then the air defense forces armed rocket and artillery fire against air and ground targets.

At the conclusion of the exercise warm greetings from Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, were conveyed to the participants in the exercise, highly appraising the readiness of the officers and men and their ability.

Also at the end of the exercise, on behalf of the others, an officer assured the PDPA Central Committee that they would always try to enhance their combat readiness for repelling air and ground enemy attacks and safeguarding the peaceful atmosphere of the country.

PDPA Politburo Holds Routine Session 9 Mar

*LD091931 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT
9 Mar 85*

[Text] A routine session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo has been convened and was chaired by Babrak Karmal, secretary general of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council. At this session several political and socioeconomic issues were discussed and the necessary decisions were made.

At this session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo the plan for the preparation of issues to be discussed at the sessions of the Politburo and Secretariat of the PDPA Central Committee during 1364 [beginning 21 March 1985] was also presented and then approved.

Assessing the issues raised, Babrak Karmal said:

The PDPA Central Committee departments and all PDPA committees must raise in their sessions the most vital and immediate issues of our society's life and make practical and specific decisions on these matters. From the beginning of 1363 [21 March 1984-20 March 1985] until now in the sessions of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and Secretariat we have raised and assessed dozens of important national and international issues, and have adopted important resolutions that form the confident foundation of the burgeoning future of beloved Afghanistan. The resolutions adopted on strengthening and consolidating the social pillars of the revolution, attention to reinforcing the ranks of the Armed Forces, and experiments and specific assessments of the socioeconomic issues at our sessions, indicate the maturity of the PDPA's experience and extension of our revolution.

The PDPA Central Committee central departments and all party committees must pay serious attention to the unreserved and unconditional implementation of the adopted resolutions. Cooperation between the party and government organs in the realization of the adopted resolutions must be intensified, and the task of controlling the work of party committees and government organs must be taken seriously. With responsibility, patriotic and progressive feelings the misapplication and nonapplication of party and government decisions should be prevented.

It should be the main aim of all members of PDPA Central Committee, government and our social organizations to work to improve the living standard of the workers, to defend the gains of the revolution, and to decisively defeat and eliminate the counterrevolutionaries.

Military Official Attends Paktia Tribal Assembly

*LD081854 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT
8 Mar 85*

[Text] The members of the No 1 Tribal Regiment's headquarters of Rode-e Ahmadzai, Paktia Province, held a tribal assembly yesterday in the conference hall of that Province's Nationalities and Tribal Affairs Department and expressed their readiness for the restoration of security and peace in their villages.

Major General Ghulam Nabi Yusifi, Southeastern Zone head, spoke and expressed appreciation at the assembly for the active role of the people of Rod-e Ahmadzai in the defense of the gains of the April Revolution.

Speaking on behalf of the members of the tribal regiment's headquarters, Haji Abdul Rahman assured our revolutionary government that the working people of Rod-e Ahmadzai were defending the gains of the April Revolution with unity and complete solidarity.

The head of the Southeastern Zone, accompanied by the deputy head of the Nationalities and Tribal Affairs Department of Paktia Province spoke yesterday in the hall of that department with the leaders and chiefs of the various tribes of 'Ali Kheyli District.

Talks were held at that meeting on a number of proposals and demands of the above tribes and necessary decisions were adopted. Meya Sahib Zadran, Muhammad Yusif, and Aslodin, then gave an assurance on behalf of their tribes that they were prepared for every struggle to defend the borders.

Clandestine Radio Reports Mujahidin Activity**Chamkani Post Seized**

*LD082311 (Clandestine) Voice of Afghanistan in Pashto
and Dari 1130 GMT 8 Mar 85*

[Text] Nangarhar: Our correspondent reports from Nangarhar Province that the heroic mujahidin have recently brought Chamkani post under their control following an intense attack. It is reported that a number of the servant soldiers, stationed at that post were killed and the rest fled to Towr Kham border battalion as a result of these attacks.

In accordance with a report received from Khugianay, two Muslim officers and six Muslim soldiers have recently fled the ranks of the servant enemy and joined the mujahidin, bringing eight light weapons with them.

Qandahar: In accordance with reports received from Qandahar Province, the mujahidin recently fought a heavy battle in Espinboldak District against the servant enemy soldiers of the border battalion. As a result of this battle, the commander and six servant and militia soldiers of that battalion were killed, and two irreligious officers and seven sold-out military personnel were injured. The report adds that eight Muslim soldiers fled the ranks of the enemy during the battle and joined their fraternal mujahidin. These soldiers also brought a number of weapons as booty with them.

Konar: In accordance with reports received from Barikowt region, Konar Province, the Muslim mujahidin have attacked a military post of the servant enemy 2 kilometers from Barikowt regiment. As a result of this attack the faithful mujahidin have destroyed several trenches at that post and killed a number of the sold-out soldiers and seriously injured four of them. A policeman was also killed by a mujahid in Chowkay District.

Baghlan: Information that has reached us from Baghlan Province, reports that three Soviet servicemen were killed and seven of the invaders and six of the servant soldiers were seriously injured as a result of a clash of the faithful mujahidin and a group of the servant and invader soldiers.

Clashes in Badakhshan Province

GF101830 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari 1715 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Excerpt] According to reports received, some time ago the Soviet usurper forces and the mercenary Karmalites in Keshem District of Badakhshan Province launched an attack with the intention of occupying and destroying the positions and bases of our mujahid brothers.

Our ever-vigilant mujahid brothers put up a bold and valiant resistance before the enemy forces and in the violent clashes which began at 0900 at night and continued until 0200 between our brothers and the enemy forces, the latter were forced to flee. As a result of this encounter, 25 enemy soldiers were killed and 10 others were wounded.

Similarly in these operations, 10 different kinds of arms and 1 communications set belonging to the enemy fell into our Muslim mujahidin's hands. Our Muslim mujahidin brothers launched a coordinated guerrilla attack on a post of the government puppet forces at a village near Kesht District.

Our brother mujahidin inflicted heavy losses and casualties in these operations, 35 government soldiers who had been awaiting an opportunity to escape the Soviet enemy's clutches surrendered themselves and their weapons to our Muslim mujahidin.

HEYWAD Cited on Popular Support for Government

LD100001 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari and Pashto 0205 GMT 9 Mar 85

[From the "In the Mirror of the Press" program]

[Summary] HEYWAD, organ of the Revolutionary Council and Council of Ministers carries a commentary entitled: "Compatriots in the Consolidation of the Government Authority."

The commentary speaks of the increasing power of the government and support of the revolution by the people. This commentary says in part:

"The vigilance of our compatriots in the capital and provinces and their increasing cooperation with the party and government organs of the country for the restoration of security and exposition of the enemy's conspiracies, have consolidated the government authority in the localities. In addition to the formation of revolution defense groups, border and tribal militias, and self-defense groups, action has been taken to set up literacy courses, trade unions and primary party organizations in the remotest corners of the country."

Our compatriots are inspired by the statement of Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, delivered in the 13th plenum, who said:

"We have devoted all possibilities to inflict a decisive defeat on the counterrevolutionary forces and to prepare the ground for the expansion of the government authority in the whole territory of the country. The year of 1984 must be the year of our decisive victory against the counter revolutionaries." Our compatriots have really inflicted continuous blows on the counterrevolutionaries in the current year and hoisted the banner of victory on the highest peaks of the country. The joining of our volunteer youth in the heroic ranks of the Armed Forces and the continuous return of our compatriots to their homeland, are the best testimony for the truth of the April Revolution.

Briefs

Fall Agricultural Campaign — Kabul, March 6, BAKHTAR — Over one million and 500 thousand hectares of land were cultivated in wheat, barley, vegetables and other plants during the current fall campaign in the DRA. Over 90 percent of the plan target has been realized during the campaign. A large quantity of chemical fertilizers, insecticides and pesticides were distributed to the peasants at a lower price. For example, 51 thousand tons of chemical fertilizer, over 780 tons wheat seeds, insecticides and pesticides worth 22 million afghanis were distributed to the peasants. The agricultural mechanized stations cultivated about 16 thousand hectares of land. [Text] [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 7 Mar 85 LD]

Ershad Sends Condolences on Chernenko Death

*BK111719 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT
11 Mar 85*

[Text] In a message to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, President Ershad expressed his deepest condolences at the death of the Soviet president. He said he is shocked to learn the sad demise of President Chernenko and his passing away is a matter of profound sadness to us all.

Sultan Ahmed To Attend Chernenko Funeral

*BK120248 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT
12 Mar 85*

[Text] An official announcement in Dhaka last night said the national flag will fly at half-mast at all government offices from today till the funeral of the late Soviet president tomorrow. The

deputy chief martial law administrator and minister for communications, Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmed, leaves Dhaka today to represent Bangladesh Government at the funeral of President Chernenko.

Statements Against 21 Mar Referendum Banned

*BK121321 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1236 GMT
12 Mar 85*

[Text] Special announcement: The making of any statement directly or indirectly or any propaganda or distribution of leaflets against the referendum to be held on 21 March has been declared totally banned. If any person or newspaper violates this order, that person or the authorities of that newspaper will be sentenced under the provisions of martial law.

Gandhi To Attend Chernenko Funeral; Condolences**Gandhi Leaves for Moscow**

*BK121253 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT
12 Mar 85*

[Text] A high-level delegation led by the minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, left New Delhi for Moscow this afternoon to represent India at the funeral of the Soviet president, Mr Chernenko. The funeral is to be held at the Red Square tomorrow.

The prime minister is accompanied among others by the defense minister, Mr Narasimha Rao; the chairman of the Policy Planning Committee in the External Affairs Ministry, Mr G. Parthasarathy; the minister of state for steel, Mr K. Natwar Singh; the foreign secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari; and president and general secretary of the Friends of the Soviet Union, Mr P. Shiv Shankar and Mr T.R. Ganesh.

Before leaving for Moscow, Mr Gandhi visited the Soviet Embassy in the capital and signed a condolence book.

President Sends Condolences

*BK111623 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
11 MAR 85*

[Excerpt] The president and the prime minister have expressed deep grief over the death of Mr Chernenko. In a condolence message to the Soviet vice president, Mr Kuznetsov, Giani Zail Singh described Mr Chernenko as a statesman of world standing and a great leader. He said he contributed greatly toward his people's welfare and to peace and disarmament. He said the Soviet leader's warm and friendly feelings toward India found concrete expression in the strengthening of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

State Mourning Declared

*BK120553 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
12 Mar 85*

[Excerpts] The funeral of Mr Chernenko will be held at 1300 local time tomorrow at the Red Square and he will be buried behind the Lenin mausoleum.

The Government of India has declared a state mourning for 3 days from today. The national flag will fly at half-mast throughout the country during this period.

Communist Parties' Statements

*BK111628 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
11 Mar 85*

[Text] The Communist Party of India has expressed profound grief at the passing away of President Chernenko. In a statement in New Delhi today, the national council of the party said that the late Soviet president initiated several historic moves to end the nuclear arms race and to achieve disarmament.

In its condolence message, the Politburo of the CPI-M said Mr Chernenko's short period as president of the Soviet Union was marked by struggle for world peace.

Chavan Announces Release of Akali Dal Leaders

*BK111635 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1541 GMT
11 Mar 85*

[Text] The government has ordered the release of a number of prominent Akali Dal leaders and some others now held under the National Security Act. They include Mr H.S. Longowal, Mr J.S. Talwandi, Mr S.S. Barnala, Mr Atma Singh, Mr Randhir Singh Cheema, Mr Ujagar Singh Shekhwan, Mr Dalip Singh Pandhy, and Mr Baldev Singh Barat.

Announcing the decision at a news conference in New Delhi this evening, the home minister, Mr S.B. Chavan, said instructions have been sent to the Punjab government to release them forthwith. The step has been taken to create a congenial atmosphere for a solution of the Punjab problem. The government considers the gesture an adequate beginning and hopes for a positive response from the Akali Dal.

In reply to questions, Mr Chavan emphasized that the decision has been taken suo moto and not as a reaction to Akali demands. Government hopes that political leaders of all parties in Punjab, particularly Akali Dal, will contribute to the restoration of normalcy. He said the future course of events will depend on the Akali Dal's response to the government's decision and whether they really mean to create a favorable atmosphere to solve the problem.

The home minister made it clear that the government will deal with any terrorist activity with a heavy hand. Deterrent action will be taken against all extremist and antinational and antisocial activities.

He also announced that legislation will be introduced in Parliament to provide for confiscation of the property in India of nonresident people of Indian origin who are residing in foreign countries and had been indulging in seditious, terrorist and antinational activities which threaten India's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and unity. Provisions will be made in the legislation to enforce it from today. If possible, a bill in this connection will be introduced in the coming session beginning on Wednesday.

Replying to a question, the home minister said the Army has already been withdrawn from some of the areas in Punjab. However, maintenance of law and order will continue to receive the highest priority.

Asked about the likelihood of withdrawing the Army from other areas also, he said a number of questions are involved and a lot will depend on the attitude of the Akali Dal.

Before the home minister's announcement, the cabinet subcommittee on Punjab discussed the situation in the state with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

Sikh Priests Hail Release

BK120419 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
12 Mar 85

[Text] The government's order to release a number of prominent Akali leaders, held under the National Security Act, has been widely welcomed. The Bharatiya Janata Party expressed the hope that this will be the first step toward finding a solution to the Punjab crisis. The Janata Party urged the center to start negotiations with the Akalis to defuse the long-pending Punjab tangle.

Talking to newsmen in New Delhi, the Dalit Mazdoor Kisan Party leader, Mr H.N. Bahuguna, requested the government to resume talks with Akali leaders immediately after their release. Several Congress-I leaders have called upon the Akali leaders to reciprocate the government's gesture by agreeing to a negotiated settlement. The former Punjab finance minister and a senior Akali leader, Mr Balwant Singh, described it as a good step.

In a statement, the president of the Akali Dal-Master Tara Singh group, Jathedar Rachpal Singh, hoped that the Akali leaders would reciprocate the government's gesture of good will. He also appealed to the government and Akali leaders to find a solution to the Punjab problem at the earliest.

Agency reports say the five high Sikh priests have also hailed the release of the eight top Akali leaders.

As already reported, the government's decision to release a number of Akali leaders was announced by the home minister, Mr S.B. Chavan, at a news conference in New Delhi yesterday. He said the step has been taken to create a congenial atmosphere for a solution of the Punjab problem.

Meanwhile, the Punjab government has released all the eight Akali leaders following instructions from the center. They are: Mr H.S. Longowal, Mr J.S. Talwandi, Mr S.S. Barnala, Mr Atma Singh, Mr Randhir Singh Cheema, Mr Ujagar Singh Shekhwan, Mr Dalip Singh Pandhy, and Mr Baldev Singh Barat.

AFP Reports on Arrest of Muslim Party Leaders

HK090714 Hong Kong AFP in English 0707 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] New Delhi, March 9 (AFP) — Top leaders of the right wing Muslim fundamentalist party Jamiat-e Islami were among 60 people arrested yesterday in a crackdown in Kashmir on "secessionist and pro-Pakistani groups," reports said today. State Police Chief M.M. Khajooria told reporters in the state capital, Srinagar, that the arrests were made under a special act in the Muslim-dominated state, disputed between India and Pakistan. The neighbouring nations have fought two wars on Kashmir, and the issue of Kashmir's status is pending at the United Nations. The *TRIBUNE* newspaper from Chandigarh, joint capital of Punjab and Haryana states, said the arrested included Ali Shah Gilani and Ghulam Mohammed Sofi, both of the fundamentalist party. It said Mr. Gilani in the past two months had "made highly objectionable speeches," including one in which he "pleaded for the division of the state on the basis of religion." *THE TIMES OF INDIA* newspaper said that Mr. Gilani had "questioned the accession of the state to India."

"During the past three months, elements belonging to the parties have been active and several instances of sabotage and arson are believed to have been committed by them," it said. The Indian Government wants to maintain peace in the area as the tourist season approaches, the paper said, noting that tourists brought valuable foreign exchange.

Five Sentenced to Life Imprisonment in Pakistan

BK110306 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
11 Mar 85

[Text] In Pakistan, a military court has sentenced five persons to life imprisonment on charges of plotting against the government. They were tried and sentenced for receiving arms and training in a foreign country. According to official sources, 13 other people have been acquitted of similar charges. At a similar trial 4 days ago, 54 persons were awarded life imprisonment.

Zia Sends Condolences on Chernenko's Death*BK111530 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT
11 Mar 85*

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in a condolence message to the Soviet leadership on Chernenko's death has expressed deep sorrow on behalf of himself and the Pakistani Government. The message said that we have very attentively observed the concerted and wholehearted efforts made by the late president during his brief tenure of office to improve the living standard of people in the Soviet Union. The message added that we equally share the grief of the Soviet people in the demise of the great leader. The president has requested the Soviet leadership to convey their sincere sympathy to the bereaved family.

The president is to leave Islamabad tomorrow to attend the funeral of the late president. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan will accompany the president. The last rites will be held on Wednesday [13 March]. The Pakistani president also attended the funeral of the late Soviet President Andropov in February last year.

Departs for Moscow Funeral*BK121029 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT
12 Mar 85*

[Text] The president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, left Islamabad for Moscow this afternoon to attend the funeral of the late Soviet president, Mr Chernenko. He is accompanied by the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan.

Talking to newsmen before his departure, the president said that the people of Pakistan shared the grief of the people of their neighborly country — the Soviet Union. He said in keeping with the past tradition, he would represent Pakistan at the funeral of the late Soviet president.

He was seen off at the airport by the federal ministers and high military and civil officials and the Soviet ambassador.

In a message, the president has felicitated Mr Mikhail Gorbachev on his election as the general secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. He earnestly hoped that the Pakistan-Soviet relations would continue to grow to the mutual benefit of the two people and countries. Pakistan on its part, he added, was ready to take positive steps in this direction. He expressed the confidence that under Mr Gorbachev's able and dynamic leadership, the Soviet people would achieve yet greater prosperity and the cause of the world peace for which the Soviet Union has special responsibility would be well served.

Zia Comments on Constitutional Amendments*BK121002 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT
12 Mar 85*

[Excerpts] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has called upon the people, particularly those of Baluchistan, to ensure rapid development of their provinces for which a new leadership has emerged. Addressing a news conference in Sibi today, he

expressed the confidence that the new leadership would not only further the cause of Islamization of society but would also consolidate it.

About the future prime minister of the country, the president said it was his endeavor that only such a person was nominated who enjoyed the confidence not only of the National Assembly, but also that of the people at large. He himself had no intention to become the prime minister, although it had been suggested by some quarters.

The president said it was wrong to say that as a result of constitutional amendments [words indistinct] had been restored. In fact, more powers had been given to the provinces, and the chapter concerning the provisions had not been touched at all. The members of the national and provincial assemblies will take oath of their offices as prescribed in the 1973 Constitution. However, with the lifting of martial law, the governors and the judges of the higher courts will take the oath of their offices afresh.

Answering a question on Afghanistan, the president said this problem could only be solved through a political solution, as there was no other practical way. Pakistan attached great expectations to the Geneva talks, he added. Referring to the development of Baluchistan, the president said province is now on the threshold of a pleasant revolution. The president has now returned to Rawalpindi.

Foreign Secretary Leaves for Japan, S. Korea*BK120307 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT
12 Mar 85*

[Text] The Pakistan-Japan Joint Commission's 2-day meeting begins in Tokyo tomorrow. The foreign secretary, Niaz A. Naik, has left for Tokyo to lead the Pakistani delegation at the meeting. The foreign secretary will also pay a 3-day visit to South Korea on Friday [15 March] at the invitation of the South Korean deputy foreign minister. During the visit, they will exchange views on matters of common interest.

Political Leader Wants Amendments Presented*GF081603 Karachi DAWN in English 6 Mar 85 p 8*

[Excerpts] Karachi, March 5: Prof Ghafoor Ahmad, Naib Amir [vice-president] of the defunct Jamiat Islami [JI] has appealed to President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq to present his constitutional amendments in the form of a draft bill to the newly-elected National Assembly and allow its members to accept or reject these amendments in accordance with the provision of the 1973 Constitution.

Speaking at the Karachi Press Club's "Meet-the-Press" forum on Tuesday, he said categorically: "Now that the general election is over, there can be no justification for continuing with the martial law, which should be lifted at the first opportunity".

Prof Ghafoor, who made it clear he was speaking in his personal capacity and not as a spokesman for the defunct Jamiat Islami,

acknowledged that the election was held in a fair, free and peaceful manner and that its results should be accepted with "good grace".

He said that about 900 persons elected to the national and provincial assemblies represented the people and, accordingly, were entitled to a legitimate status in the national policy. He suggested that efforts be made to win them MNAS-[member of national assembly] and MPAS-[member of provincial assembly] elect over to become part of the struggle for the restoration of democracy in the country.

Prof. Ghafoor urged the people of Punjab, the majority province, to come forward and play their rightful role for the cause of democracy and constitutionalism. "You, being the big brother, have an added responsibility towards your fellow-citizens and the country and I do wish you fulfil the nation's expectations accordingly", he remarked.

He also appealed to all the political elements, particularly the MRD, to eschew mutual recriminations, revive contacts in a spirit of goodwill and understanding and devise ways and means to take the country out of the wood.

Prof. Ghafoor, who was asked several questions on the JJ's electoral performance, replied that his party could not fare as well as had been expected of it. He called for a "merciless self-analysis" by the party hierarchy of the factors responsible for such a situation.

He said it was being wrongly understood that the Jamiat was close to the present regime, although the fact was that his party had consistently opposed the policy of confrontation and was desirous of achieving whatever "limited democracy" it could get through democratic means.

Prof. Ghafoor demanded release of all the political prisoners, lifting of curbs on the press and on political parties.

Speculation on Next Prime Minister Discussed

GF081428 Karachi MASHRIQ in Urdu 4 Mar 85 p 1

[Report by Nasim Shad]

[Text] Karachi, 3 Mar -- Now that the elections to the national and provincial assemblies have been completed, speculation is

afoot in political circles about the next prime minister of Pakistan. Those people who have been speculating in their homes, offices, hotels, buses, minibuses, and trains on the election victory or defeat of candidates have now begun speculating on the next prime minister of the country. So far, except for the defunct Jamiat Islami Party, no figures are confirmed for the seats won by any other party or group. Yet people have started to speculate on the leaders of the defunct Muslim League who may be appointed prime minister, after the league claimed that it won a two-thirds majority in the parliament and is in a position to form the government.

Among those names heard are the former federal ministers, His Excellency Mohammad Khan Jonejo, Pir Seyyed 'Ali Gauhar Shah Rashidi, the son of Pir Pagara, and Mr Zulfiqar 'Ali Shah Jamot, a close friend and trustee of Pir Pagara. His Excellency Mohammad Khan Jonejo is one of the top leaders of the Muslim League. He has also served as a provincial minister in the former West Pakistan cabinet. Pir Seyyed 'Ali Gauhar Shah Rashidi, son of Pir Pagara, is a highly educated person, but he does not have much experience in politics. It is the first time that he has entered politics. The general public and political circles believe that if there is any truth in the Muslim League claims, the elected members of this party can elect the son of Pir Pagara as their parliamentary leader and ask that he be appointed as prime minister of Pakistan.

His Excellency Zulfiqar 'Ali Shah is an old parliamentarian and is also a highly educated person. He is considered a very close and trustworthy colleague of Pir Pagara. Pir Pagara's close circles let it be known that Pir Pagara wanted to appoint him as a chief minister. It should be kept in mind that all these speculations in political circles are based on rumors that the future prime minister of Pakistan will be taken from one of the smaller provinces; Sind Province is also considered to be a small province.

Political circles also believe that keeping in view the importance of a small province, if the future prime minister is not chosen from Sind Province, then he may be chosen from Baluchistan Province. In this connection Mir Zafrollah Khan is also mentioned by speculators. Along with him Mr Elahi Bakhsh Somro is also heard; he is a former federal minister. He has been elected unopposed from the Sangarh constituency number 180 and commands the support of several National Assembly members elected from Sind.

Khomeyni Meets With Relief Committee Officials

*LD121205 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT
12 Mar 85*

[Text] Responsible officials of Imam Khomeyni's Relief Committee, accompanied by several reliable persons from Tehran's bazaar, were received this morning by Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. They held a meeting with his holiness.

During the course of this meeting, Mr 'Asgarowladi presented a report to the imam of the ummah on activities and achievements of this popular establishment. Afterward, while expressing gratitude to the Relief Committee officials and their very valuable services, the imam of the ummah, in part of his remarks, graciously said:

[Read by announcer] I have often said that all of you should support one another, the government should support the bazaar, and the bazaar should also support the government. We must safeguard this revolution like a treasure that has been entrusted to us. We are all aware that everyone is against us because we intend to offer Islam to the world.

In another part of his remarks, while referring to the Iraqi regime's attacks on defenseless cities of the Islamic homeland, the imam of the ummah graciously said: Today, when Iraq is attacking our defenseless cities, the hypocrites [members of Mojahedin-e Khalq organization] are formally spying for the Iraqi regime and say so openly. Does an Iranian spy for the enemy of Iran?

Referring to the merchants of the bazaar, the imam graciously said: I know you and you are good and healthy individuals. You must take steps in the direction of understanding and friendship and since you have good intentions, your problems will be solved, God willing. When everyone serves Islam or his country, all problems will be solved.

Khomeyni Receives Minister, Officials, Envoys

LD111823 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA — Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic, Monday received Minister of Islamic Guidance Mohammad Khatami, and the cultural representatives of the ministry abroad.

In a separate meeting, the imam met with head of the politicoideological office of the police force and special representative of Imam Khomeyni Hojjat ol-Eslam Movahedi Kermani.

The Iranian ambassador to Libya, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khonsari, and the Iranian ambassador to Tanzania, Lavasani, met and conferred separately with the imam Monday morning.

Later the families of martyrs, those missing in action, POW's and the disabled, from several cities of the central province, and from the cities of Fars Province, had an audience with the leader of the revolution.

Khomeyni Calls for Faster Investigation of POW's

LD101452 Tehran IRNA in English 1425 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 10, IRNA — Imam Khomeyni today called on the information minister to speed up investigations into the list of prisoners proposed to be released.

"A person should not remain in prison for no reason," the imam said. But he said, "Accuracy is necessary in your work because you are dealing with the munafiqeen and other grouplets."

The imam was speaking in a meeting today with a group of Information Ministry staff, including Minister Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri who presented a report on the activities of the ministry. He also stressed while the staff of the Information Ministry should be pious, they should also be independent from any particular social group or political party. "You must all be impartial."

The leader of the Islamic Revolution also commended Mohammadi Reyshahri for leaving his main occupation to accept the ministerial post at the Information Ministry.

"Islam obliges us to get involved in this affair. Stepping aside and sitting and praying in the corner of a room is of no use. We must follow our prophets. The aim of the prophets and their close followers, was not to keep away from the people but to be with them, and they would take over the state whenever they had a chance."

Khamene'i Speaks to Mobilization Units on War

*LD081623 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT
8 Mar 85*

[Speech by President Khamene'i to mobilization units on 6 March, place not given — recorded]

[Text] The way the statesmen of global arrogance have chosen to crush this nation and this revolution has been by employing an insane and crazy regime to wage stupid bullying and war against this people's pure faith. But that regime is receiving repeated blows and its forces have become despondent. Of course, global arrogance constantly gives them new weapons to prevent their despondency and disillusionment. But Iraq is like a spoiled child, who ungratefully ruins his expensive toys, or like a gambler, who rapidly wastes easily won wealth. Aids of global arrogance — sophisticated weapons and the wealth of oil money — which is placed at their disposal by some states, are spent generously and without account in the hope of safeguarding themselves against the wave of faith of our committed forces. But ultimately, they will not be able to resist.

They attacked our cities for a long time. We advised them and said if you are true men, come and face our Armed Forces on the battlefields. We told them: Why are you fighting against women, children, old men, and those who are not on battlefields and have no weapons in their hands? But like bullies, they targeted their missiles on Dezful, Andimeshk, and other cities. Then by pressing one button, they destroyed dozens of houses, and martyred or wounded dozens of people. However, we told

them to stop. The world stayed deadly silent. The UN Organization became dumb and did not utter a word.

Last year we said that we could no longer find an answer to our own people. The people keep asking us: Why are you not attacking them? Why are you not retaliating? Then we said we must retaliate to halt this trend. Of course, they did not believe us and we pounded several cities in retaliation. Then they realized that they could not put up with this. At this point, for the first time, the international organizations raised their voices asking the two sides to stop attacking civilian areas; the UN, the Nonaligned Movement and others. So then I wrote a letter to one of the leaders of the international organizations, who was also head of a country, and had asked us to stop the shelling. In the letter I told him: We are not attacking Iraq, we did not do this for over 3 years, but how come you have just remembered that it is wrong to attack cities? How come you did not utter one word when our cities were pounded for 3 years? Were you dead? Eventually the Iraqis agreed; they were forced to agree to stop attacking cities. They stopped and naturally we were delighted. That was what we wanted from God. We welcomed the idea of not attacking cities, although we warned Iraqi people before each attack asking them to leave their cities; and they do leave their cities, but some might be left behind. We do not wish to attack anybody.

They began their satanic acts again. They attacked some cities, or suburbs of cities or Abadan. Again, we threatened them. We said that we never start it, but we can reply very well. We said: You have tried us before and you know that when necessary we will reply to your aggression and your bullying and we will make you regret your mistake. We said: You made a mistake once and experienced our reaction, do not repeat it again. But they hit Ahvaz 2 days ago. Yesterday we asked citizens of Basra to evacuate this city. We said that we had to retaliate. They evacuated this city, but we hit Basra with artillery for only 2 hours. We had issued orders that Basra should be hit for only 2 hours. After 2 hours we said: That is enough. I pray to God to minimize the casualties of our heavy artillery fire. God willing, the number of casualties will be negligible. We ask God to safeguard the ordinary inhabitants of Basra. Really and truly, we feel the same sympathy for the people of Basra as we feel for you. We feel sorry for those helpless people as we feel sorry for our own nation; and we would have not taken such measures if we had not been forced. We ordered our forces to hit Basra for 2 hours and of course, we told them to fire few shells. We asked them not to open intense fire — it would have been possible to increase the fire intensity 10 times — and only for two hours.

Now Saddam Husayn has raised an uproar and blames us for hitting Basra. Then he said: We are going to hit several Iranian cities. We said they should be informed that we did not start it. You started it and you should know that if you carried out your threat, we would be capable of making you regret your latest deed for the hundredth time; and we shall do so. [shouts of "God is the greatest" from the crowd]

He has threatened to hit 30 cities. I am saying that instead of choosing 30 targets, we are capable of selecting fewer targets that will inflict much greater damage than hitting 30 cities. And we shall select these targets. We are the same in the battlefield. We

are not in a hurry either, when the so-called political and military analysts of the world say that Iran has postponed its attacks for this reason and that reason, maybe because it is not capable? Many times in the past they said that Iran cannot launch a new offensive and they saw that we could. We proved this to them. The day we launched the Fath ol-Mobin offensive, no one could believe that our combative forces would be able to capture 15,000 prisoners in one move. They also liberated thousands of kilometers in one move. The day we recaptured our suffering Khuninshahr to make it Khorramshahr again the world was amazed. They could not imagine that we would be able to recapture the city. Well, now let them again utter nonsense by wagging their bearded chins saying: Iran is not capable, maybe there are some political or military reasons. They do make such analyses. They will see again that this is not the case. We are in no hurry. We give the Iraqi regime and its supporters time to think; we give them respite to study. We give time both to the Iraqi regime and those who support these crazy rulers of Iraq to continue the war. Do you think they are wise? Does a wise man resort to such atrocities? Does a wise man borrow tens of billions of dollars in 4 years? I am not certain how much, maybe \$50 billion, \$40 billion, or \$60 billion, the reports vary, he has received so much aid from here and there. This aid is not given for nothing, later they will pull it back out of his throat. Is this wise? You have suffered tens of thousands of dead; you are hated by the world; you made your shaky regime more shaky than it was before; and you turned a great popular revolution against yourself. Is this wisdom?

The experienced revolutionaries of the world, those who carried out a revolution and those who have read the history of revolutions, always say that no revolution can ever be defeated by military aggression. They tell us this when they come to visit us. They say that our revolution will not be defeated either. And in reply we tell them: God told us this before you. The army of God will be victorious and when we assist an army it will become victorious. We are God's army, we are nothing without God. That brother guard, that brother in the Armed Forces, that official of the Islamic Republic, that member or chairman of the Supreme Defense Council — none of them consider themselves to be anybody. Each considers himself a minute particle from a huge ocean, which is tumultuous by divine will.

We will be proud and honored if Almighty God accepts each of us as a petty soldier, as a petty guard of our religion. Well, when a nation is part of the divine army, God has told him that he will not be defeated. And when history and foreign experience also proves this, we do not mind. A revolution such as ours with its massive and tumultuous might will never be defeated. That is why we advise you and warn you. We also advise those who have naively put their hopes on several baseless and ruthless Iraqi militarymen to defeat this revolution. Can this revolution be defeated with these toy soldiers and their games? We advise them and these gullible and insane rulers of Iraq to wake up and think for a while. When we realize that you will not listen to advice, we will not hesitate to deliver our blow when the opportunity is right. The clenched fists of our warriors are ready and raised, they are awaiting orders. [shouts of "God is the greatest" from the crowd]

Khamene'i on Agricultural Self-Sufficiency*LD092041 Tehran IRNA in English 1940 GMT 9 Mar 85*

[Text] Tehran, March 9, IRNA — President Khamene'i Saturday said agricultural self-sufficiency is of the utmost importance to the country. Speaking to a group of officials from the Ministry of Agriculture he said in order to safeguard the revolution, Iran needs to reach economic independence.

Stressing on independence from the superpowers, he said "When a society dares to stand up to foreign powers, then it no longer needs to beg from them."

On the possibility of economic sanctions by the enemies of the Islamic Republic, the president said the government "must be able to supply bread to the people."

He also called on the officials to eliminate red-tape.

Defense Minister Rahimi Reports to Khamene'i*LD112138 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Mar 85*

[Text] Colonel Rahimi, minister of defense of the Islamic Republic of Iran, met this morning with Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Republic and chief of the Supreme Defense Council and presented the latter with a report on the Ministry of Defense.

Continuing Reports on Iran-Iraq War, Bombings**Official on Baghdad Attack***GF111600 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 11 Mar 85*

[Text] In a statement to our correspondent, the officer in charge of the operations which were carried out today by the Islamic Air Forces during which the heart of the city of Baghdad was hit, described these operations as totally successful.

He added: The operations that were carried out by the pilots of the Islamic Air Force represent one part of its capability to carry out operations. Through these operations we wished to prove to Saddam and to the agents of international imperialism that we are able — if orders are issued to us — to violently attack the city of Baghdad. These people must not forget or imagine that we are incapable of doing this.

On the nature of the operations that were carried out today and that were not directed at civilian residents, the officer said: We do not intend to attack the innocent inhabitants of the cities. We proved this today. The planes of the Iranian Air Force bombed only military targets and the assembly centers of the Iraqi forces so they will know that we — with all the power we have — hit targets determined in advance and that our eagles do not fling their bombs anywhere.

In conclusion, the officer referred to the crimes perpetrated recently by Saddam with his attacks on residential areas in

Islamic Iran. He said: Saddam is living his final days. The forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran will achieve ultimate victory in the near future.

Ministry Summons Envoys*LD101037 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 10 Mar 85*

[Text] According to our correspondent, following the attacks by the Iraqi regime on residential districts in Iranian cities which resulted in retaliatory action by the Islamic Republic of Iran, our country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs summoned several ambassadors of foreign countries to Iran and presented them with some information about repeated violation of the 12 June agreement by the Iraqi regime. In this connection, Besharati, deputy minister of foreign affairs, met the Soviet, Indian, Pakistani and Turkish ambassadors. Sheykh ol-Eslam, political under secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, met the ambassadors of Algeria, Syria, Libya, South Yemen, Italy and Brazil. Kazempur-Ardabili, under secretary in charge of economic and international affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, met the ambassadors of Portugal, Yugoslavia, China, Sweden, and North Korea. Mir Mehdi, under secretary in charge of legal and parliamentary affairs at the ministry of foreign affairs, met the Romanian ambassador who is senior ambassador in Iran.

At these meetings the baseless claims made by the Iraqi regime regarding Iranian attacks on residential areas were denied. UN reports in this connection which declare that Iraqi claims are baseless and the reports made by the Islamic Republic of Iran about the attacks by Iraq on Iranian residential areas were also pointed out. At these meetings, while announcing the Islamic Republic of Iran's commitment to the 12 June agreement, it was mentioned that Iran is against attacks on civilian targets and that Iran refrained from such action for a long time. The Iraqi regime, however, took advantage of the Islamic Republic of Iran's humanitarian and Islamic attitudes and of the silence of international regulations on repeated occasions.

At these meetings, referring to the remarks made by the president of our country saying that the Islamic Republic of Iran is not interested in attacking cities and what Iran is doing is in retaliation; it was announced that whenever Iraq stops its aggressive acts and attacks on residential parts of Iranian cities, Iran will have no reason to bomb Iraqi cities. However, if the Iraqi regime continues its adventurist acts, the combatants of Islam will quash any aggression launched by Iraq with all their might, and responsibility for what follows will fall on the shoulders of Saddam's regime.

Tabriz Hit Again*LD111620 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 11 Mar 85*

[Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA — Iraqi planes Monday fired rockets at four residential neighborhoods in Tabriz, East Azarbaijan Province, at 12:45 (09:15 GMT). Initial reports said the bodies of 10 people had been removed from the debris and 46 had been wounded. The attack on Tabriz was the second in less than 24 hours and the fifth since the start of the war 54 months ago.

In Bakhtaran, the latest casualty toll from an Iraqi aerial attack this morning reached 80 martyrs and 650 wounded. Also, two Iraqi planes which were chased off before attacking Tehran today, dropped their bombs in on empty plain outside Qazvin, 150 kms west of Tehran.

Basra TV Center Shelled

*LD111654 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT
11 Mar 85*

[Text] In the shelling of Basra by the artillery units of the Islamic Republic of Iran, its radio and television center was smashed and radio transmission stopped.

Basra, Mandali, Khanaqin, Chuwartah, Halabjah, (Chanedari), Khormal and Sayyid Sadiq in Iraq came under the heavy artillery fire of the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, and their military and economic installations sustained heavy damages.

In another humane act and in order to show its goodwill and its adherence to international commitments, the Islamic Republic of Iran expressed its agreement with the UN secretary general's proposal not to attack civilian targets from midnight tonight, while maintaining the right to retaliate in kind with all its might should Iraq oppose that proposal.

Basra Shelling Continues

*LD111713 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT
11 Mar 85*

[Text] According to latest reports, as a result of today's heavy shelling of Basra by the artillery units of the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces, the Basra radio and television center was smashed and radio transmission stopped. These reports add: Basra situated in the south of Iraq today came under the heaviest fire of the artillery units of Iran during the current week. This was done while, at the same time, the center of Baghdad was smashed by Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force fighter-bombers.

In a report from Basra, REUTER says that the shelling of Basra by Iranian artillery still continues and so far heavy damages have been inflicted on that city.

Velayati Sends Agreement to UN

*LD111811 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT
11 Mar 85*

[Text] As another humane act and in order to show its goodwill and its adherence to international commitments, the Islamic Republic of Iran announced its agreement with the UN secretary general's proposal not to attack residential areas and called for necessary and serious steps against the side that violated and may violate in the future the 12 June agreement. Iran also emphasized that should Iraq reject the secretary general's proposal, Iran reserves the right to retaliate in kind with full force.

According to the same report, following the Iraqi regime's violation of the agreement reached on 12 June 1984 not to attack residential areas — Iraq's violations of this agreement are also confirmed by international organizations — and following Iraq's attacks on Ahvaz and Bushehr which resulted in the martyrdom of a number of innocent individuals; also in view of the fact that no decisive steps were taken by international organizations to stop such attacks on Iranian residential areas which were followed by decisive retaliation by the Islamic Republic of Iran; on 9 March 1985 the UN Secretary General in a message asked Iran and Iraq to refrain from attacking residential areas from midnight tonight GMT.

In this connection a letter was sent by Velayati, our minister of foreign affairs, to the UN secretary general. In this letter, while referring to the aggressive acts of the Iraqi regime in violation of the 12 June agreement, emphasizing that Iraq's savage actions left no option for the Islamic Republic of Iran but to retaliate, it was stated: The Islamic Republic of Iran, as it repeatedly announced, is in favor of observing and adhering to the 12 June agreement. In this connection, the Islamic Republic of Iran not only accepts your proposal to stop these attacks from 23:59 GMT, [passage indistinct] in order to pave the way for the implementation of your excellency's positive measures; Iran also proposes that necessary and serious steps be taken against the side that violated this agreement in the past or that might violate it in the future. It is important to note that the Islamic Republic of Iran reserves the right to retaliate with full force if the Iraqi regime opposes your excellency's proposal and continues to attack the non-military and residential areas in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Communique No 2,037

LD111947 Tehran IRNA in English 1915 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA — Iraq's offer to take part in direct negotiations at the United Nations regarding recent strikes against civilian centers is actually an excuse for not committing itself to the June 12 agreement, a spokesman for the War Information Headquarters said.

"The position taken by the Iraqi regime shows that it wants to continue its endless crimes," he said.

The Iraqi foreign minister, Tariq 'Aziz, has said he is ready to go to New York for talks with U.N. officials to talk about the issue but did not say if Iraq had accepted the U.N. secretary general's plea for a halt in civil attacks beginning 23:59 GMT on Monday.

The Islamic Republic has accepted the U.N. plea. But in his cable to Javier Perez de Cuellar, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said Iran reserved the right to retaliate "with full force" if Iraq does not give a positive response to the cease fire.

Meanwhile, Iranian jet fighters attacked and levelled two targets in Baghdad this morning. Speaking to a television reporter, one of the pilots who had just landed at an air base after the successful raid, said "considering the heavy volume of defence fire in Baghdad and the pursuit of the Iraqi war planes, the operation

showed that we accordingly are powerfully able to set fire to any place in Iraq and even Baghdad itself."

Three other Iraqi cities, Khurmatu, Al 'Amadiyah and Aara were also attacked by Iranian fighter-bombers in the morning. The joint Staff Communique No. 2037 said today that Iranian forces shelled Basra, Mandali, Khanaqin, Showartah, Halabjah, Shanedari, Khormal, and Sayyid Sadiq, inflicting "heavy blows on military and economic installations in these regions."

Iraq fired two missiles at the Iranian city of Borujerd, and made aerial attacks against Bakhtaran, Bandar-e Mahshahr, and Tabriz, the latter for the second time in less than 24 hours.

Twenty four were martyred and 184 wounded in Borujerd, 80 martyred and 650 wounded in Bakhtaran, and 10 martyred and 46 wounded in Tabriz.

There were no casualty reports from Ma'shur.

Two Iraqi warplanes violated Tehran's air space after the attack on Baghdad but were chased off by Iranian fighters. On their way back, Iraqi planes dropped their explosives outside the city of Qazvin, 150 kms west of Tehran, but caused no casualties or damages.

In ground action, the Joint Staff said one Iraqi truck carrying personnel and four group bunkers were destroyed across the Arvand River in the past 24 hours.

Battle raged heaviest in Nahr-Anbar, Zayd and the Majnun Island in the southern sector and in Mehran and Salehabad fronts in the central sector.

In the north, enemy engineering activity in Hajj 'Umran was halted by the fire of the Islamic forces.

Tehran Arabic Commentary

GF112010 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The heroes of Islam could not respond except in a quick and decisive manner. The response turned the skies of the enemies into an inferno and put the fear of defeat into their hearts. In the face of this response the Iraqi rulers could only admit weakness and incapability. Thus, the heroes have proved that they are staying put and are completely prepared to respond whenever necessary. They have proved that they are always strong enough to confront any circumstances.

The coincidence of the thunderbolt that struck the aggressors in Baghdad with the sudden thunder that turned Zionist bodies into ashes in Muhalla was not a coincidence. The whole world should consider with reverence the quick Islamic response in Baghdad and Muhalla. People, especially usurpers, should learn a lesson from this powerful response which has been even more powerful than the imposed terrorism against our Islamic people.

The Muhalla and other suicidal operations of this type and similar responses have depicted to all peoples the principles of ready struggle against the forces of oppression and hegemony. The despots must understand the new language of Jihad which has begun to find its way to oppressed people. They must admit that all their weapons are incapable of confronting the weapon of people. They must get ready for the big defeat at the hands of the heroes of Islam. The Muhalla operation and that of stretching a strong arm into Baghdad have drawn a red sign on the horizons of imperialism and its allies.

Imperialism has found ways to debilitate weapons. If it thinks that by total terrorism and mass suppression it can end the escalating Islamic movement, it is under a misapprehension. More terrorism and killings can only strengthen enthusiasm that consequently will accelerate the great victory. As the despots know, this is the era of victory by blood over the sword. Isn't that so?

Air Raid Alert in Tehran

HK120026 Hong Kong AFP in English 0001 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 12 (AFP) — Anti-aircraft guns began firing here in Iran's capital and an air raid alert went into effect at 23:05 GMT Monday night — just 54 minutes before a United Nations deadline for stopping bombardment of civilian targets. U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar appealed to Iraq and Iran Saturday night to stop such bombardments at 23:59 GMT Monday. It was not yet known if planes dropped bombs here, though loud explosions were heard at the beginning of the alert. Anti-aircraft fire continued for more than half an hour. Electricity was cut off through out Tehran during the alert.

Iraqi Planes Strike Tehran

LD120340 Tehran IRNA in English 0335 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 12, IRNA — Three Iraqi warplanes struck against Tehran early Tuesday morning, firing two rockets at residential quarters in the north of the capital. The rockets hit Zafar Street and a few blocks away at the Zargandeh District, martyring two and wounding three in Zafar and martyring three and wounding one in Zargandeh. Two homes were destroyed and five were damaged. The attack was the first against a purely residential area of Tehran since the start of the war in September 1980. The three warplanes entered Tehran air space at 02:33 am (23:03 GMT Monday) and then flew 135 kms to the south, breaking the sound barrier in Qom.

There were also attacks against Masjed-Soleyman, Khorramabad, Dezful, and Borujerd in the south of the country, and Arak, 290 kms south of Tehran, after midnight Tuesday. No other details are available. The Islamic Republic has declared it would respect a U.N. plea to stop civilian strikes as of 23:59 GMT Sunday but has warned it would retaliate "with full force" if Iraq rejects the cease-fire.

Iran Strikes Kirkuk

LD120436 Tehran IRNA in English 0433 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 12, IRNA — Iran fired ground-to-ground missiles at economic installations at the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk at 02:40 am (23:10 GMT) Tuesday. Military sources told IRNA "this is a warning for the Iraqi regime that from now on any point in Iraq could come under Iran's missile attacks." More details will be given as they become available.

'Successful Offensive' Cited

LD120459 Tehran IRNA in English 0455 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Khatam al-Anbiya HQ, March 12, IRNA — Islamic combatants of Iran in a successful offensive Monday night, inflicted heavy casualties on the Iraqi troops inside the Iraqi territory, this was announced today. The announcement, released by Khatem al-Anbiya Joint Headquarters of the Army and the Islamic Revolution's Guards, further added that a great number of Iraqi forces were killed in the offensive. An informed source at the headquarters told IRNA that Islamic combatants of Iran will give a "suitable" response to the Iraqi attacks against Iranian residential areas.

Attack on Bushehr Foiled

LD120541 Tehran IRNA in English 0537 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Bushehr, Bushehr Pr, March 12, IRNA — Three Iraqi warplanes shattered the sound barrier over the southern port-city

of Bushehr early Tuesday morning. The enemy aircraft came under fierce anti-aircraft fire and were forced to escape before releasing any explosives on the city. The intrusion occurred at 02:30 am (23:00 GMT Monday).

Communique Issued

LD121123 Tehran IRNA in English 1115 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 12, IRNA — The Islamic forces launched an offensive in southern Iraq Monday night, inflicting heavy casualties and losses on the enemy forces.

The operation was launched at 11:20 Monday night (19:50 GMT) against infantry and mechanised positions of the Iraqi forces, east of the Tigris River and is still continuing, the Army and the Islamic Revolution's Guards said in a joint communique. It said so far a large number of enemy troops had been killed or wounded. A number had also been taken captive and 40 of them, including officers, have been transferred to the back lines.

Three companies of the 2nd battalion of the 429th brigade of the Iraqi forces have been crushed, and fifteen tanks were either destroyed or seized by the Islamic forces. One enemy helicopter was shot down. The code name of the operation was "Fatima al-Zahra", marking today's birthday of prophet Mohammad's daughter, and in response to the savage Iraqi attacks against Iranian cities.